

## SOME RECORDS OF SCOTTISH MICROLEPIDOPTERA

By K. P. BLAND\*

The following records of uncommon or under-recorded species of microlepidoptera from Scotland are worthy of note:—

*Nepticula assimilella* Zeller, 1848. Several empty mines of this species were found in Aspen leaves in Hallyards Castle Wood, Midlothian (O.S.Grid NT/1273; V.c.83) on 27.x.1984. This species is much less frequent in Scotland than the other Aspen-feeding nepticulid, *Ectoedemia argyropeza* (Zell.); this is only the fourth Scottish vice-county from which it has been recorded.

*Stigmella basiguttella* (Heinemann, 1862). The distribution of this species extends much further north than previously suspected. Prior to 1984, this species was only recorded in Scotland from Dumfriesshire (V.c.72) and Dunbartonshire (V.c.99). On 23.vi.1984 a female *Stigmella basiguttella* was taken flying in the morning sunshine in Dinnet Oakwood SSSI, Aberdeenshire (O.S.Grid NO/4698; V.c.92). Its identity was confirmed by microscopic examination of the genitalia (see Johansson, 1971). Later in the season (10.xi.1984) two vacated mines belonging to this species were found, in oak leaves, just south of Tenandry, Perthshire (O.S.Grid NN/9161; V.c.88). This species thus appears to be quite widespread in Scotland.

*Lampronia capitella* (Clerck, 1759). The only previous Scottish record for this species was at Ballater in 1955, where the larvae were damaging blackcurrant bushes (Shaw, 1956). After nearly 30 years it has reappeared in its old haunts for on 24.vi.1984 two males were captured flying around a riverside gooseberry bush at Ballater, Aberdeenshire (O.S.Grid NO/3795; V.c.92) by Dr. M. R. Young and M. Harper.

*Coleophora argentula* (Stephens, 1834). This species was recorded for the first time in Scotland in 1981 (Bland, 1982). Although occasionally searched for in its previous locality and other similar ones, it was not seen again until August 1983 when several imagines were taken at Pettycur, Fife (O.S.Grid NT/2686; V.c.85). Their identity was confirmed by Mr. E. C. Pelham-Clinton. Old larval cases were later found on the dead flower-heads of *Achillea millefolium* L. at two sites in East Lothian (V.c.82), viz. Longniddry foreshore (O.S.Grid NT/4477) on 27.xii.1983 and Gullane foreshore (O.S.Grid NT/4783) on 28.xii.1983, as well as at the original East Lothian locality of Yellowcraigs LNR (on 1.iv.1984).

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*Coleophora genistae* Stainton, 1857. A third locality for this species in Scotland was found when Dr. R. Knill-Jones and I found larval workings (but no cases) on *Genista anglica* L. and then captured an imago on Muir of Dinnet NNR, Aberdeenshire (O.S. Grid NO/4398; V.c.92) on 24.vi.1984. For details of the other two localities see Bland (1982).

*Coleophora lithargyrinella* Zeller, 1849. To the single published Scottish record for this species (Bland, 1983) can now be added two further records from widely separated localities. Four larval cases of this species were collected from *Stellaria holostea* L. in Cappercleuch Hazelwood (alias Henderland Bank SSSI), Peebleshire (O.S. Grid NT/3360; V.c.78) on 10.iv.1984. Unfortunately all 4 proved to be parasitized. Also 3 cases identified as this species (identity confirmed by Mr. R. W. Uffen) were found fixed to the base of an oaktree surrounded by *Stellaria* in Milton of Drimmie Wood SSSI, Perthshire (O.S. Grid NO/1651; V.c.89) on 21.v.1983. Again only parasites were reared.

*Coleophora lixella* Zeller, 1849. Previously only recorded in Scotland from Kincardineshire (V.c.91) (Hulme, Pakner & Young, 1978), the discovery of this species in Fife in 1983 suggests that the species may be more widespread in Eastern Scotland. The small larval cases made from thyme seed-capsules were common at Petycur, Fife (O.S. Grid NT/2686; V.c.85) on 1.iv.1983. The large cases made from a mined grass-blade were present a month later (1.v.1983) but attempts to rear the imago were unsuccessful.

*Coleophora milvipennis* Zeller, 1839. There appears to be no published records of this birch-feeding species in Scotland so the following two records from Perthshire are of interest. A single male was taken in flight amongst birches on Flanders Moss NR, Perthshire (O.S. Grid NS/6297; V.c.87) on 11.vi.1981 and subsequently identified by Mr. E. C. Pelham-Clinton. Later the same year a single empty larval case, fixed next to a cut-out area in a birch-leaf was found at Craighall Gorge SSSI, Blairgowrie, Perthshire (O.S. Grid NO/1748; V.c.89) on 14.viii.1981. It is probable that this species is more widespread than these few records suggest.

*Coleophora virgaureae* Stainton, 1857. Previously published records of this species, namely from Kincardineshire (V.c.91) and Orkney (V.c.111), wrongly suggest a coastal distribution for *Coleophora virgaureae* in Scotland. Larval cases of this species have now been found on *Solidago virgaurea* L. in a number of inland habitats such as Fealar Gorge SSSI, E. Perthshire (O.S. Grid NN/9979; V.c.89) on 20.ix.1983 and Beinn Lawers NNR, Mid Perthshire (O.S. Grid NN/

6039;V.c.88) on 1.ix.1984. A single empty case was also found on Golden-rod at Pettycur, Fife (O.S.Grid NT/2686;V.c.85) on 30.x. 1984. These records suggest not only a more widespread distribution but also a wide diversity of habitats.

*Biselachista trapeziella* (Stainton, 1849). Not previously recorded from Scotland, this species has now been reared from two different localities in Midlothian (V.c.83). A larva mining *Luzula sylvatica* (Huds.) Gaudin. near Arniston Mains (O.S.Grid NT/3360) on 9.iv.1984, pupated on 19.iv.1984 and produced an imago on 22.v.1984; while a larva mining *Luzula pilosa* (L.) Willd. at Maggie Bowies Glen (O.S.Grid NT/3860) on 31.v.1984, pupated on 4.vi. 1984 and emerged at some time between 25.vi and 20.vii.1984. It is difficult to decide whether this data suggests a single protracted generation or two successive ones.

*Agonopterix yeatiana* (Fabricius, 1781). A single specimen of this uncommon species came to a battery-operated M.V. light-trap at Mount Lothian Marsh, Midlothian (O.S.Grid NT/2757; V.c.83) on the night 26/27.viii.1984. Widely distributed along the west coast of Scotland this is the first record of it from the east. Previously the most easterly Scottish record was Aberfoyle (Christie & Christie, 1982).

*Anacamptis temerella* (Lienig & Zeller, 1846). Several specimens of this rare gelechiid were reared from pupae in spun shoots of *Salix repens* L. collected on 25.vii.1984 on the coast near Cornaigbeg, Isle of Coll (O.S.Grid NM/2363;V.c.103). The imagines emerged between 27 and 31.vii.1984. This appears to be the first record of this species north of the Border.

### Acknowledgements

I am very grateful to Mr. E. C. Pelham-Clinton and Mr. R. W. Uffen for assistance with identification and to Dr. M. R. Shaw of the Royal Scottish Museum for allowing liberal use of the Scottish Insect Records Index. I am also grateful to Dr. R. Smith of the Nature Conservancy Council for arranging access to some of the sites.

### References

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PERIBATODES SECUNDARIA D. & S. [LEP. SELIDOSEMIDAE]  
FEEDING AT RAGWORT. — On the night of August 1st, 1985, I was surprised to find a considerable number of moths feeding at ragwort flowers (*Senecio jacobaea*) in a ride of Orlestone Wood, Kent — surprised because ragwort seems to attract fewer moths than formerly, and also this plant is not common in the rides of these woods. The flowers had attracted vast numbers of the small Pyralid *Endotricha flammealis* Schiff. and about a score each of *P. secundaria* and *Miltochrista miniata* Forst. on two patches of ragwort each of a dozen or so plants, compared with only two or three of each species at an m.v. light in an adjacent ride. Other species at these flowers were *Eilema lurideola* Zinck., *E. deplana* Esp., *Cabera pusaria* L., *Apamea scolopacina* Esp., *Mesapamea secalis* L. and *Idaea biselata* Hufn., and singletons of *P. rhomboidaria* Schiff., *Semiothisa liturata* Clerck f. *nigrofulvata* Collins, *Noctua janthina* Esp. and *Mythimna impura* Hubn. Nearby patches of wood sage, rose-bay willowherb, knapweed, hogweed, thistles and rushes in flower were devoid of macrolepidoptera. I can find no previous reference to *secundaria* feeding at flowers in this country. B. K. WEST, 36 Briar Road, Bexley, Kent.

MACROGLOSSUM STELLATARUM L. (HUMMING-BIRD HAWK-MOTH) IN DEVON — Single sightings of this moth at the north end of Slapton Sands, Devon, were made on 25 July, 21 August, 1 and 10 September 1985, at valerian flowers. The moth observed on 21 August laid two eggs on the seed head of valerian — one failing to hatch, and the other hatching after only 78 hours. H. L. O'HEFFERNAN, 24 Green Park Way, Chillington, Devon TQ7 2HY.